

Aprile 2014

www.OregonTuscans.com



## TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING

Our meeting on **Apr. 27** will mix business, sports and international affairs. The gathering begins at 3pm at Carvlin Hall, behind St. Philip Neri Church at 2408 SE 16<sup>th</sup> Av. in Portland.

We're nearing the end of Audrey's term as club president. She wants to tidy up some administrative things before the folks in attendance select her successor. So, first some changes in the bylaws will be considered. The bylaws have not been addressed since the club was founded in the mid-1990s. Some of the language in the [1996 bylaws](#) is outdated, based on how the association's procedures have evolved over the years.

The bylaws have been redrafted. You can read them [here](#) or see a summary on page 4. We'll vote on their adoption on Apr. 27. Then we'll elect a new slate of officers to run the club, beginning in July. Nominations are still open for all positions, which



**FOUR CLUB PRESIDENTS, COVERING 18 YEARS. WHO'S NEXT?  
COME DECIDE ON APRIL 27.**

include President, Vice-president, Treasurer and Communications Manager. If you would like to nominate someone (or yourself!) for a position, please call or e-mail Audrey prior to Apr. 27. She can be reached at [OregonTuscans@gmail.com](mailto:OregonTuscans@gmail.com) and at 503-246-6462.

(see *SOCGER*, page 2)

**NEXT MTG:**

**SUN., APR. 27, 3PM**

**CARVLIN HALL, 2408 SE 16<sup>th</sup> AV.**

**FUTURE DATES:**

**5/18 FIELD TRIP &**

**6/22 BBQ**

## DAL PRESIDENTE HAPPY EASTER!

BY AUDREY PERINO  
PRESIDENT



Buona Pasqua everyone!

I hope you will have a wonderful day celebrating with friends and family. I am spending Easter on the East Coast with Ken's family.

I want to strongly encourage you to attend our next club meeting on Sunday, Apr. 27. We have a real treat in store. Professor Peter Bechtold from Portland State University is coming to speak about soccer and its relationship to everyday life in Italy.

(see *BECHTOLD*, page 4)

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# SOCCER AS LIFE LESSONS

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Once that business is addressed, then we'll expand our minds with Dr. Peter Bechtold, a professor at Portland State University. A native of Heidelberg, Germany, Dr. Bechtold visited Oregon as a teenager and liked it so much he enrolled at Portland State College, earning his bachelor's degree. He went on to earn his *two* Ph.D.s at Princeton.

He was among the first students to study at Portland State's new Middle East Studies Center. He returned 50 years later to head the center.

In between, Dr. Bechtold, an expert in international affairs, the Middle East and Islam, worked for the U.S. State Department for three decades. He taught at the Foreign Service Institute where, among his more than 11,000 students, was Operation Desert Storm hero Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf.

"He was a great student," Dr. Bechtold says of the late general. "He took 85 pages of notes in my class. He was writing constantly. I used his notes in later classes."

In 2009, Dr. Bechtold left Washington, D.C. behind to return to his alma mater as a professor. He teaches a variety of classes at PSU and lectures around Portland



on current affairs and world politics, often focusing on the the Middle East. The photo above was taken during a recent lecture at Friendly House. Learn more about him at [www.drbechtold.com](http://www.drbechtold.com).

You could call OregonTuscan Gino Pieretti a Bechtold Groupie. He's audited several of the professor's classes and often goes to hear him speak. "Peter's the best," says Gino. "His knowledge is so broad, and it's always growing. Yet he's able to explain complex issues in ways that are interesting and easy to grasp. Plus, he's a great guy!"

"I've seen him in the classroom. He's unbelievable in what he brings to his courses and what he gives his students," continues Gino. "Peter goes way out of his way to help students. He wants them to know everything he knows."

Dr. Bechtold, a lifelong soccer fan, will use the prism of global sports to explore global relations. The title of his presentation? Understanding Italian Culture via the World Cup. In other words, how soccer reflects sociology. "The way a country operates is reflected in their style of playing soccer, and each country has its own style. In Italy, they play *Catenaccio*, which emphasizes defense over offense," says Dr. Bechtold.

But lest you think his talk will be Xs and Os on the pitch, hold on. The good doctor says even people with little knowledge – or little tolerance – of *futbol* should come away enlightened on Apr. 27. "They will learn to understand the *world*," he says. "The U.S. has a completely different system from everywhere else. Certainly in government, but sports also reflects these differences."

Feel free to wear your Timbers jersey that day ... or Juventus or Fiorentina for that matter!

## L'ANGOLO ITALIANO

DAL CARLO ILIO MANNOCCI

*A tutti I soci e simpatizzanti gli auguri piu' sinceri di una Pasqua Felice!!!* To all members and supporters, the most sincere wishes for a very Happy Easter!

Eighteen years have gone by since a group of Tuscans met to establish the Tuscan Association of Oregon. During this time we have enjoyed cultural discoveries, we have revisited the land and discovered the character and stamina of our immigrant ancestors.

I am proud to be a member of this organization, proud to share my experiences and passion for Tuscany and Italy. You as members have made my dream become a reality. I only wish I could give more than my moral support, my love for the Tuscan Association of Oregon will be forever!!

*Buona Pasqua a tutti!! Happy Easter to all!*



# LA STOPPA VINTNER MAKES A STOP IN PORTLAND DURING U.S. TOUR

On March 14, wine fans in northeast Portland were treated to a sip of authentic Italian winemaking, from a certified organic Italian winemaker. Elena Pantaleoni (right) stopped by the Great Wine Buys shop on Broadway to showcase five of her La Stoppa vineyard wines.

La Stoppa is located near Rivergaro and the Trebbia River in the province of Piacenza in Emilia-Romagna. There, 30 acres have been in grape production for more than a century. Originally planted with French varietals, Pantaleoni's father added more native varieties, such as Barbera and Bonarda, when he bought the vineyard in 1973.

The small winery releases traditional Italian wines, like a Barbera and a Trebbiolo. But it also acknowledges its French origins with a Cabernet Sauvignon. It even makes "Ageno" (named for the vineyard's original owner) which is classified as an "orange" wine. Pantaleoni says Ageno sits on the grape skins for three months to acquire its orange hue. It's as tannic and dry as a red but looks more like a white.

Pantaleoni began working at La Stoppa in 1991. It is very much a one-with-the-earth experience for her. Only indigenous yeasts are used to ferment the wine. Little, if

any sulfur dioxide is used. The fields are worked by hand, without fertilizer.

She has said, "I inherited this estate from my father, and I think one of my nieces and nephews will probably take over. Therefore I feel like a guardian of this place, and I want to preserve and maintain its sanctity. I know the vineyards can last much longer than I ever will!

"Man's task is to understand the area in which he lives, enhancing the expression and specific manifestations of the fruits of nature. In this context, La Stoppa produces authentic wines of character [which are] strongly linked to the territory."

Pantaleoni was in Portland as part of a four-city American tour, including San Francisco, Chicago and New York. A stop in Portland sandwiched between those heavyweights? "I came to Portland because it is so advanced with regard to Italian wine." Indeed, some surveys have shown more Italian wine is drunk here per capita than anywhere else in the U.S.

And so March 14 found her on Northeast Broadway, chatting up one Portlander at a time, extolling the virtues of *terroir* and minimal modern-day intrusions in the art of winemaking ... and blazing a trail for a wine that isn't red, nor white, nor rosé, but orange.

La Stoppa wines can be found at Great Wine Buys at 1515 NE Broadway, as well as at New Seasons, Hagens, Pastaworks, Liner & Elsen in northwest Portland and at many restaurants. You can learn more about the winery at [www.LaStoppa.it](http://www.LaStoppa.it).





# WE LET BYGONES BE BYGONES ... BUT NOT SO BY LAWS

As Carlo Mannocci pointed out in his page 2 column, the Tuscan Association of Oregon has been part of Portland's Italian scene since 1996. Eighteen years old – if the club were a person, it would be an adult!

Heading into “adulthood” as an organization, it's fitting that we look back with pride ... and with a critical eye, at least when it comes to the way we operate.

And so, as we are about to elect a new president, Audrey Perino has taken the opportunity to propose some revisions in the club's bylaws. Most of the changes reflect the evolution of the club. When it began in 1996, the fledgling organization was headquartered in Salem, its officers served for a year at a time, and getting the word out was done by the U.S. Mail.

Times, places and modes of communication have changed! When Carlo convened the first Tuscan Association meeting, “surfing” was something still done only in the ocean, certainly not on your computer. The Internet ... what was that? Heck, most people didn't have laptops or cellphones back then.

So yes, things are different now. And the revised bylaws we'll be voting on on Apr. 27 reflect how our club has evolved from toddler into adult. Most of the changes simply codify what has been standard operating procedure in the club for several years, if not longer. The biggest changes:

- The officers' term has long been two years ... except in the bylaws, where it has remained one year. Henceforth, the bylaws will stipulate two-year terms.

- The bylaws have called for an annual election meeting to be held in June, though, in reality, many Junes have not included a club activity. The bylaws have been rewritten to call for elections “in the spring of even-numbered years.”
- The bylaws will designate the club's headquarters as Portland (as it has been, in reality, for years).
- The old bylaws refer to an elected “Board of Directors,” something which hasn't existed for years. The language will be changed to an appointed “Advisory Committee” which is something the club has convened more recently.
- The club hasn't had a Secretary in a long time. The bylaws will be amended to change the Secretary position into “Communications Manager.” We've had that 21<sup>st</sup> Century version of a secretary for at least a couple of years: someone to produce a newsletter, and maintain the club's Website and social media presence.
- The old bylaws define a quorum for elections and making decisions as 50 percent of the membership plus one, present and voting. That can be a difficult number to hit at any given meeting. The new quorum is proposed to be one-third of the membership.
- And finally, we're changing the bylaws to allow 18-year-old members to vote on officers and club matters. If 18's good enough for the U.S. of A., it works for the 18-year-old OregonTuscans!

## BECHTOLD AND BYLAWS APR. 27

*(continued from page 1)*

Ken and I were privileged to attend a recent lecture by Professor Bechtold on “Understanding Israel.” It was fascinating – and I know he is going to make the topic of soccer, nationalism and culture equally entertaining.

Dr. Bechtold was brought to our attention by member Gino Pieretti. Gino (on the left in the photo with Dr. Bechtold) has taken many of the professor's Middle Eastern study classes at PSU. (Did you know you can audit some PSU classes for free if you are over 65?) I am sure that, after hearing Professor Bechtold speak, you will thank



Gino for inviting him to come to our club meeting. So, don't miss it!

It's the time of year for spring cleaning, so we will be doing some of that, too. We will elect officers for the next two years of our association. And for the first time in recent memory, we will be updating our club bylaws. So, please come to participate in this process.

Hope to see you then!

*Audrey*